



IOWA E911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting. The Iowa E911 Communications Council met on July 14, 2016, at the West Des Moines City Hall. E911 Surcharge Fund Administrator Blake DeRouchey reported on several items:

- There are currently four states that are 100% text to 911 (the ability to send a text to 911). Iowa is implementing text to 911 at a fully integrated level, which takes more time but should save money in the long run.
- The vendor contract to conduct the Statewide Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) consolidation study, as mandated by the General Assembly, will be signed yet this week. This study is due to the Legislature by January 15, 2017. Participation by the individual PSAPs is encouraged when work on the study begins in August. Additionally, [chapter 34A](#) of the Iowa Code needs to be updated.
- A legal request has been made for information on how much each wireless provider is paying for the E911 surcharge. Mr. DeRouchey is consulting with the Attorney General's office on how to proceed, as that is information protected by Iowa Code [chapter 34A.7\(2\)\(d\)](#).
- The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) has hosted four webinars for local PSAP individuals to educate them on the recent law changes contained in [HF 2439](#) (E911 Surcharge Act) and [SF 2326](#) (E911 Funding Act).

PSAP Grant Applications. The FY 2016 grant applications final deadline is July 15; there are only five still outstanding, totaling approximately \$500,000. It is expected that these applications will be submitted.

PSAP Consolidation Discussion. There was an extensive discussion from members of the audience and the council regarding possible consolidation of PSAPs. Concerns were raised that there may be additional consolidation costs for maintenance of equipment and phone lines. It was stated that the true cost of consolidation savings needs to take those possible additional costs into account. There was also concern expressed about the changes in the \$100,000 PSAP grants, as many used those funds for upgrading of equipment.

Three applications for consolidation grants have actually been received, but the administrative rules for that process have not been adopted yet, so the applications will not be acted on for the time being. The council voted to write a letter to the Administrative Rules Review Committee supporting the adoption of emergency rules at their next meeting. John Benson from HSEMD will be writing those rules and presenting them to the Committee.

Iowa Interoperability Governance Board. Coordinator Craig Allen reported:

- There is a user group meeting planned for July 28. The goal is to take a look at how other states are operating. The LMR (Land Mobile Radio) platform is actually being used today for the National Governor's conference.
- The national FirstNet vendor will not be selected until the fall. Updated presentations on the FirstNet project as it currently stands are being developed for outreach to the counties.
- There are two new Board members, and the Board continues to advance some policy standards.

Next Meeting. The next Council meeting will be August 11, 2016, at the West Des Moines City Hall.

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